



CMR Summary: DoD SAPRO Annual Reports Show Significant Increases In Military Sexual Assault Accusations Deemed “Unfounded.”

The percentages and trend line in the graph above represent numbers of actual military sexual assault cases, which were reported by the Department of Defense each year. These actual cases differ from estimates presented in the bi-annual “Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active-Duty” members (WGRA). RAND has conducted the WGRA survey for the Department of Defense on a service-wide, bi-annual basis since 2010.

SAPRO report formats have varied since FY 2009, but most reports show the total number of cases considered by the Defense Department (e.g., N=3567 in FY 2017), and include tables reporting “Command Action Precluded.”

For example, the FY 2017 SAPRO report includes a “Combined Action Precluded” table. The two relevant categories in that table, combined in percentages shown here, are labelled “Insufficient Evidence of Any Offense to Prosecute” and “Allegations Unfounded by Command/Legal Review.” Percentages shown here do not include cases in which the “Victim Declined to Participate in Justice Action,” “Statute of Limitations Expired,” or “Victim Died Before Completion of Justice Action.”) (See Appendix B: Statistical Data on Sexual Assault, Figure 9, p. 20)

Sources:

FY 2009 through 2014: DoD Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office (SAPRO) Report for FY 2014, Provisional Statistical Data on Sexual Assault, p. 29, Exhibit 16. The numbers of unfounded allegations are explained as follows: “*When the allegations in an Unrestricted Report are investigated, one possible outcome is that the evidence discovered by the investigators demonstrates that the accused person did not commit the offense. Another possible outcome is that evidence shows that a crime did not occur. When either of these situations occurs, the allegations are determined to be unfounded.*”

FY 2015: DoD SAPRO Report for FY 2015, Appendix B: Statistical Data on Sexual Assault, Table 3: Subject Dispositions and Associated Victims, FY 2015 and Figure 9: Dispositions of Subjects under DoD Legal Authority, FY 2015, pp. 18-19.

FY 2016: DoD SAPRO Report for FY 2016, Appendix B: Statistical Data on Sexual Assault, Figure 9. Dispositions of Cases under DoD Legal Authority, FY 2016, p. 19.

FY 2017: DoD SAPRO Report for FY 2017, Appendix B: pp. 19-20, Table 3: Case Dispositions, 2017. p. 19, and Figure 9, Dispositions of Cases Under DoD Legal Authority, FY 17, p. 20.

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*Graph prepared by the **Center for Military Readiness (CMR)**, an independent, non-partisan public policy organization that reports on and analyzes military/social issues. More information is available on the CMR website, www.cmrlink.org.*